



**National
Transportation
Safety Board**

What does the NTSB do, anyway?

Robert L. Sumwalt, III



NTSB



- NTSB is an independent federal agency
 - investigate transportation accidents
 - determine probable cause
 - issue safety recommendations



Additional Responsibilities

- Perform fair and objective airman and mariner certification appeals.



Additional Responsibilities

- Assist victims of transportation accidents and their families.
 - Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996
 - Foreign Air Carrier Family Support Act of 1997
 - Rail Passenger Disaster Family Assistance Act of 2008





NTSB

NTSB



49 U.S.C. § §1131, 1132 -- The National Transportation Safety Board **shall investigate--each accident involving civil aircraft**, or an aircraft accident involving a public aircraft other than an aircraft operated by the Armed Forces or by an intelligence agency of the United States

FAA



§40113 - The Secretary of Transportation (*... or the Administrator of the FAA Administrator with respect to aviation safety duties and powers designated*) **may take action the...Administrator ... considers necessary** to carry out this part, including **conducting investigations**, prescribing regulations, standards, and procedures...

Facilities

- Headquartered in Washington, DC
- 4 Regional Offices
- NTSB Training Center



The Board



Earl Weener



Bella Dinh-Zarr
Vice Chairman



Chris Hart
Chairman



Robert Sumwalt



NTSB



NTSB

NTSB Aviation Accident Investigation Involvement: CY 2015

Domestic

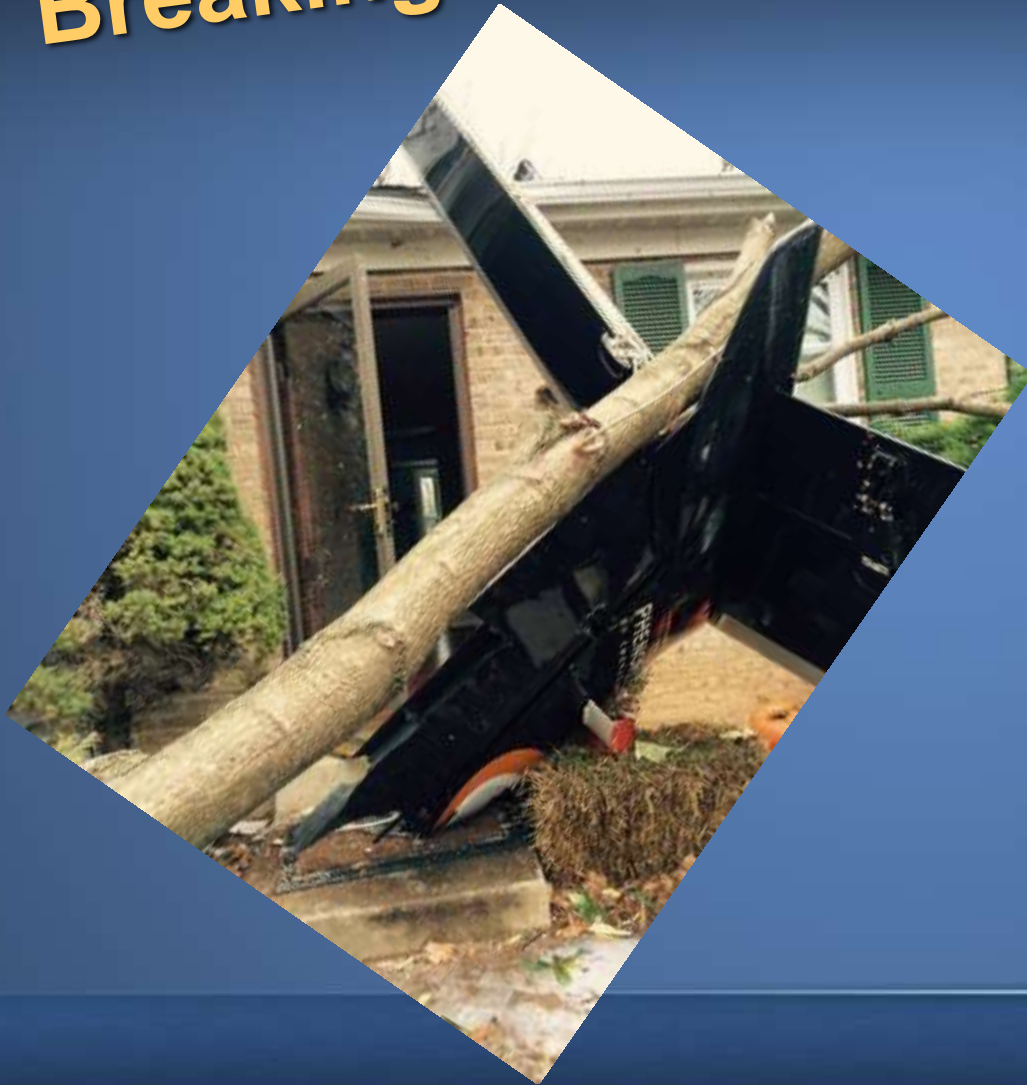
- 1279 accidents
 - 237 fatal accidents
 - 404 fatalities

Foreign

- 264 (ICAO Annex 13 Accredited Representatives)



Breaking News: A plane has crashed.



NTSB

NTSB Response Operations Center



NTSB

LAUNCH IN
PROGRESS



Determining the
level of response

Different Types of NTSB Investigations

Data Collection Accident ("C-Form")

- Non-injury GA accidents
- No airworthiness issues



NTSB

Different Types of NTSB Investigations



Limited Investigation



NTSB

Different Types of NTSB Investigations

Regional Investigation



NTSB

Different Types of NTSB Investigations

Go-Team Investigation



NTSB

Anatomy of an accident investigation

NOTIFICATION + 2 HOURS



NTSB

The Launch



NTSB

Enroute



NTSB

Arrival on Scene



Boots on the Ground

- Powerplants
- Structures
- Systems
- Operations
- Human performance
- Survival factors
- Airworthiness
- ATC
- Meteorology
- Recorders
- Transportation Disaster Assistance



Initial “Walk-through”



NTSB

The Hunt for ...



NTSB

The “Black Boxes”



NTSB



NTSB



NTSB

Media Briefings



NTSB

Family Briefings



NTSB

Meeting with Elected Officials



NTSB

October 27 - 28, 2016



NTSB

The Party Process

- The NTSB designates parties to the investigation to those organizations that can provide technical expertise.
- Typically parties may include:
 - FAA (by statute)
 - Operator
 - Airframe and engine manufacturers
 - Major component manufacturers
 - Pilot, ATC, maintenance, and flight attendant union representatives
 - Airport authorities
 - First responders



FAA Nine Areas of Responsibilities

(Examined by FAA inspectors for every accident)

1. **FAA Facilities**
2. **Non-FAA Facilities**
3. **Airworthiness**
4. **Airmen/Agency Competence**
5. **FAR Adequacy**
6. **Airport Certification**
7. **Security & HazMat**
8. **Airman Medical Qualification**
9. **FAR Violations**



Value of the Party System



- Parties provide technical expertise
- Parties provide checks and balances to the process of accident investigation
- Transparency
- Immediate corrective actions



NTSB

Anatomy of an accident investigation

MONTH 3 - 5



NTSB

Investigative Hearing





NTSB

Anatomy of an accident investigation

MONTH 12



NTSB

Board Meeting



NTSB

Crash During Nonprecision Instrument
Approach to Landing
Execuflight Flight 1526
British Aerospace HS 125-700A, N237WR
Akron, Ohio
November 10, 2015



Accident Report

NTSB/AAR-16/03
PB2016-104168



National
Transportation
Safety Board



NTSB

Petitions for Reconsideration

- Discovery of new evidence
- Showing that the Board's findings are erroneous





NTSB

NTSB Office of Administrative Law Judges



Hon. Steven Woody



Hon. Alfonso Montano
Chief Judge



Hon. Roger Mullins



FY 2016 Activity

ALJ Office

- 246 new cases filed
- 173 ALJ decisions
 - 104 emergency cases

Decisions Appealed to the Board

- Issued 17 Opinion & Orders
 - 11 affirmed
 - 1 reversed
 - 2 modified
 - 3 remanded





National Transportation Safety Board